

California High Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 1:30 pm

Venues:

As authorized by Governor Newsom's Executive Order, N-29-20, dated March 17, 2020, the meeting will be held via teleconferencing with members of the CHCF-A Administrative Committee (AC) attending from separate remote locations. This altered format observes recent recommendations by local officials that certain precautions be taken, including social distancing, to address the threat of COVID-19.

Important Notice to the Public Regarding COVID-19:

Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor's Office, in order to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, please note the following:

- There is no physical location of the meeting open to the public.
- The public is invited to call in and provide public comments during the meeting.

Telephone Conference Phone Bridge:

Access: 415-655-0002

Participant/Access Code: 146 635 2867

Attendees:

Present – Committee Members

- Matt Kingsley, (Inyo County)
- Patrick Hoglund (CPUC, Public Advocates Office)
- David Clark (Sebastian)

Present – Others

- Stephen Kalish, Alternate Committee Member (Community Based Organization)
- Eric Votaw, Alternate Committee Member (Ducor)
- William Charley (Cooper White Cooper)
- Patrick Rosvall (Cooper White Cooper)
- Paul Smith (Rural County Representatives of California)
- Lalaine Semana (CPUC, Fiscal)
- Ashnita Lal (CPUC, Fiscal)
- Sindy Yun (CPUC, Legal)
- Felix Robles (CPUC, Communications Division)
- Hannah Steiner (CPUC, Communications Division)
- Nancy Lee (CPUC, Communications Division)
- KieuChinh Tran (CPUC, Public Advocates Office)
- Bixia Ye (CPUC, Public Advocates Office)
- Justin Fong (CPUC, Commissioner's Office)

Minutes:

1. Introductions – Patrick Hoglund, Primary Member

Patrick Hoglund observed that a quorum was present, the meeting commenced at 1:33 pm.

2. Announcements

There were no announcements.

3. Public Comments

Stephen Kalish requested information regarding the FCC's Emergency Broadband Program (EBB Program)¹. Stephen Kalish stated that the program offers broadband subsidies to eligible households during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stephen Kalish would like to know how many households applied for the program and how many households benefited from it. Patrick Rosvall will need time to research and gather the requested information and will provide an update at the next AC meeting.

4. Review and Approval of the November 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes remained unchanged. David Clark made a motion to approve and adopt the minutes. Patrick Hoglund seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to approve the November 19, 2020 minutes. Nancy Lee will post the adopted minutes on the CHCF-A AC webpage.

5. Liaison Staff Reports:

a. Fiscal Report

Lalaine Semana presented the fiscal report.

b. Legal Report

Sindy Yun reminded committee members to complete the annual Conflict of Interest Form 700 if they have not already done so. The due date is April 1, 2021.

c. Communications Division

Felix Robles stated that the Commission adopted Resolution T-17710 on January 14, 2021 for \$35.165 million in CY 2021 CHCF-A support. The Resolution adopted monthly payments for the 10 Small Local Exchange Carriers (Small LECs) compared to last year's Resolution providing \$36.191 million in support. In October 2020, we also adopted Resolution T-17705 to increase the CHCF-A remittance rate from 0.35% to 0.70%, to compensate for the substantial decrease in reported intrastate revenue and resulting surcharge collections. This increase became effective December 1, 2020.

6. CHCF-A (R.11-11-007) Rulemaking Issues – Questions, Comments

Sindy Yun stated that because this is an active proceeding and the AC members are all parties to the proceeding, we can only discuss the proceeding procedurally but nothing subjective. David Clark asked if we are still on schedule to have the draft decision out by the end of March. Sindy Yun stated generally we try to keep that timetable but ultimately it is up to the judges because

¹ Stephen referred to this program as part of the CARES Act.

they are the author of the proposed decision. Staff is doing their best to meet this timeline and issue a PD in the Spring. Patrick Rosvall asked besides the current two Straw Proposals, will there be more Straw Proposals? Sindy Yun stated we do not have any plans to issue more Straw Proposals at this time. The purpose of the Straw Proposal is to get more information so that we can have decisions that are thorough. Patrick Hoglund asked the Small LECs when will the cost of capital proceeding be filed? Patrick Rosvall stated his understanding of the rule is they are not required to file cost of capital applications; they have no intent to file any time soon but will decide after the Phase 2 changes are adopted.

7. AC Membership

- a. Public Advocates – nomination of alternate member: Patrick Hoglund stated there is no change at this time, they have not moved forward with a formal nomination as they are still evaluating views on processes and roles. Nothing new to update at this time.
- b. Election of new Chair and Vice Chair: For the CHCF-A AC Chairperson, David Clark nominated Patrick Hoglund and Matt Kingsley seconded the motion. Patrick Hoglund accepted the nomination. The committee voted unanimously to approve the nomination of Patrick Hoglund for the Chair. For the Vice Chair, Patrick Hoglund nominated David Clark and Matt Kingsley seconded the motion. David Clark accepted the nomination. The committee voted unanimously to approve the nomination of David Clark for Vice Chair. It was also noted that Matt Kingsley's nomination and appointment as primary member has been officially approved by the Executive Director's Office.

8. New agenda items for next meeting

- Review upcoming annual budget proposal
- Possibility of Phase III in the proceeding to address the Rate Case Plan
- Update on the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit Program and CARES Act funding by Patrick Rosvall
- Standard agenda items

11. Date and time for next meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday May 12, 2021, time to be determined but morning preferred.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 pm.